

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A synchronous electric motor particularly for washing machines and similar household appliances having a rotary drum kinematically connected to the motor by a belt and a pulley, the synchronous electric motor comprising:
  - a central stator fixedly mounted on an axis;
  - a rotor having permanent magnets, the rotor being outside the stator and rotatably supported and overhanging on said axis with at least one rolling contact bearing interposed;
  - a pulley rigidly rotatable with the rotor;
  - wherein said rotor has an essentially cylindrical cup shape with an end wall provided with a hub receiving said rolling contact bearing,
  - wherein said pulley is mounted on said hub and is rotatably integral therewith; and
  - wherein at least a section of said pulley has a predetermined number of grooves, which are positioned according to the position of grooves of ~~the~~ a pulley connected with the rotary drum.
2. (Previously presented) The motor according to claim 1, wherein said hub is engaged in an end section of said pulley.
3. (Currently amended) The motor according to claim 2, wherein an other end of said pulley is rotatably mounted on said axis with an interposed second rolling contact bearing.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously presented) The motor according to claim 1, wherein said pulley has grooves throughout its length.

6. (Previously presented) The motor according to claim 1, wherein said pulley is attached to said end wall by using fixing means.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) The motor according to claim 1, wherein said pulley is removably integral with a free end of said hub.

9. (Previously presented) The motor according to claim 1, wherein the diameter of said pulley is essentially equal to the diameter of the rotor.

10. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a synchronous electric motor particularly for a washing machine having a rotary drum kinematically connected to the motor by a belt and a pulley link, said motor having a central stator and a permanent-magnet external rotor, the method comprising the steps of:

a. providing a casing of essentially cylindrical shape, having an end wall centrally provided with a hub or an outward projecting sleeve;

b. providing at least one rolling contact bearing between the hub or sleeve and a motor-supporting axis;

c. attaching a pulley to said hub or sleeve for motion transmission between the motor and the drum; and

d. mounting the pulley rotatably on said axis with an interposed second rolling contact bearing.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said pulley is also attached to said end wall by fixing means.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the end wall is removably attached to said cylindrical casing.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said pulley is removably integral with a free end of said hub.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said pulley is integral with one end of the sleeve.

16. (Currently Amended) A synchronous electric motor, particularly for washing machines and similar household appliances having a rotary drum kinematically connected to the motor by a belt and a ~~drum~~ pulley, the synchronous electric motor comprising:

a central stator fixedly mounted on an axis;

a rotor having permanent magnets, the rotor being outside the stator and rotatably supported and overhanging on said axis with at least one rolling contact bearing interposed; ~~and~~

a ~~rotor~~ pulley rigidly rotatable with the rotor,

wherein said rotor has an essentially cylindrical cup shape element ~~having a cylindrical casing, with an end wall fitted at one end of said casing and a sleeve projecting outward from said end wall, said sleeve receiving inside a second bearing provided with a hub receiving said rolling contact bearing,~~

wherein said pulley is mounted on said hub and is rotatably integral therein; and

wherein only a section of said pulley has a predetermined number of grooves and the remaining section is essentially smooth, the grooves are positioned according to the position of grooves of the pulley connected with the rotary drum.

17. (Currently amended) The motor according to claim 16, wherein said ~~end wall has a sidewall fitted inside said one end of said casing and engaged with fixing screws~~ hub is engaged in an end section of said pulley.

18. (Currently amended) The motor according to claim 917, wherein ~~said rotor~~ an other end of said pulley is integral with a free end of said sleeve rotatably mounted on said axis with an interposed second rolling contact bearing.

19. (Currently amended) The motor according to claim 916, wherein said ~~rotor~~ pulley is ~~removably mounted on said sleeve receiving inside said second bearing~~ attached to said end wall by using fixing means.

20. (Currently amended) The motor according to claim 816, wherein ~~the diameter of~~ said ~~rotor~~ pulley is ~~essentially equal to the diameter of the rotor~~ removably integral with a free end of said hub.

21. (New) The motor according to claim 16, wherein the diameter of said pulley is essentially equal to the diameter of the rotor.